**Florida Explorer’s Dinner Party Script**

**Juan Ponce de Leon:** My name is Juan Ponce de Leon, you can call me Juan. I made several trips to Florida in hopes of finding the Fountain of Youth. In 1513, I became the first conquistador to arrive to Florida. On my last trip to Florida I tried building a settlement on the Calusa Indian territory. They were not happy and shortly after I died due to my spear wounds. You can find my statue today is St. Augustine where I stand tall and proud of my many accomplishments.

**Christopher Columbus:** My name is Christopher Columbus and as you all know in 1492, I sailed the ocean blue. Little did you know that my buddy Juan came with me on my second trip to the New World. He became famous in Florida where as I became famous for my three ships – the Nina, the Pinta, and the Santa Maria.

**Panfilo de Narvaez:** Hello. My name is Panfilo de Narvaez. I was given a contract by King Charles V to settle Florida in 1526. When I arrived in Florida, I ended up in what you today call Tampa Bay. I was responsible for taking a group of soldiers inland to find wealth and food, but was later attacked by unfriendly native Indians in a place called Apalachee.

**Hernando de Soto:** Hello friends. My name is Hernando de Soto. I was made governor and captain-general of Cuba by King Charles V of Spain. I was given a contract to go to Florida like the explorer, Narvaez. When I reached present-day Tampa, I traveled further into northern states in this New World. I discovered the Mississippi River. You’re welcome!

**Jean Ribault:** Hello. My name is **Jean Ribault. I** led an expedition to the new world. I landed at the mouth of a famous river on the 1st of May, 1562. I called it the River of May. However, nowadays the river is known as the St. Johns River. From there I headed north, and placed a monument in the Port Royal Sound area claiming the land for France.

**Rene Laudonniere:** My name is Rene Laudonniere. I accompanied Jean Ribault on his expedition. However, in 1564, I led the second French expedition for France. We left France with 200 soldiers and artisans to establish a colony. I decided to build a fort on the St. Johns River's south bank near St. Johns Bluff. With the help of the **Timucua Indians** we built the village and fort, naming it **la Caroline** (land of Charles) after their King, **Charles IX**. Years later, the Jealous Spanish explorers overthrew our colony.

**Pedro Menendez:** I’m Pedro Menendez. I was an officer in the Spanish Navy. I was sent to Florida by Spain royalty to drive out the French colonies. In 1565 I settled in Florida and named my settlement St. Augustine. I died in 1574 but my heroic behaviors will be forever remembered by everyone in Spain and St. Augustine.